

Message Text

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42

ACTION MMS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 702

UNCLAS BRASILIA 8122

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, AFSP

SUBJECT: OPRED - COMMERCE PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN TO BRAZIL

REF: STATE 232607

1. THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION OF THE PROPOSAL IN REFTEL APPEARS TO HAVE SLIPPED BADLY AT SOME KEY POINT. THE EMBASSY FIRST LEARNED OF THIS MATTER SOME THREE WEEKS AGO WHEN THE INTENDED INCUMBENT OF THE PROPOSED POSITION, MR. LERAY LABAUME, PRESENTED HIMSELF TO THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER TO INQUIRE WHAT MAIL ADDRESS HE MIGHT USE DURING HIS ASSIGNMENT IN BRASILIA.

2. THE FOLLOWING WEEK MR. LA BAUME AND MR. D. E. WHIPPLE, THE LATTER AN EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE) MET WITH THE EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO EXPLAIN HOW MR. LABAUME WAS ASSIGNED TO DUTY IN BRASILIA AND TO DISCUSS THE PROSPECTS FOR AND NATURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT BE GIVEN TO HIM. IN THAT MEETING MR. LABAUME PRESENTED A COPY OF A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NOTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL ACTION IDENTIFYING HIS EMPLOYING OFFICE AS THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION IN ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND. A FURTHER ORGANIZATIONAL BREAK-DOWN IDENTIFIED HIS PARENT ORGANIZATION AS THE OVERSEAS

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OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF METEOROLOGICAL

OPERATIONS. FINALLY THE DOCUMENT SHOWED HIS OVERSEAS DUTY STATION AS BRASILIA.

3. AS MATTERS CURRENTLY STAND MR. LABAUME IS ON A PERIOD OF TEMPORARY DUTY WHICH WILL TERMINATE SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS WHEN HE WILL RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES FOR LEAVE. HE PLANS IN THAT INTERVAL TO REPORT TO HIS PARENT OFFICE IN ROCKVILLE. MR. LABAUME STATES THAT HE HAS BEEN WELL-RECEIVED IN THE BRAZILIAN METEOROLOGICAL FACILITY AND THAT THE INSTALLATION WORK HE WAS SENT HERE TO DO IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY.

4. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH MESSRS WHIPPLE AND LABAUME THAT THE BRAZILIAN METEOROLOGICAL FACILITY AND THE U.S. NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN A NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES, ARE COOPERATING IN WORLD-WIDE PROGRAM OF METEOROLOGICAL DATA COLLECTION UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION. MR. LABAUME'S FUNCTION WOULD BE TO SUPPORT THE BRAZILIAN EFFORT BY INSTALLING AND BRINGING TO OPERATIONAL STATUS VARIOUS TYPES OF DATA-COLLECTING AND TRANSMITTING EQUIPMENT.

5. IF THE PREMISES IN PARA 4 ARE SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT THE EMBASSY IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE CONCEPT OF THE PROPOSED POSITION IF IT IS LIMITED TO ONE YEARS' DURATION. BEFORE THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF PRIVILEGES WHICH MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED TO MR. LABAUME CAN BE CONSIDERED THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THIS BI-LATERAL COOPERATIVE EFFORT MUST BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AND THE EMBASSY BE INFORMED.

6. AS REGARDS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM ARISES IN THE MATTER OF HOUSING. MR. LABAUME DOES NOT PLAN TO SHIP HIS PERSONALLY-OWNED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS AND THUS WOULD BE SEEKING FURNISHED QUARTERS. THE EXISTING QUARTERS ALLOWANCE WILL NOT PRODUCE UNFURNISHED QUARTERS AT \$4000 PER ANNUM. FURNISHED QUARTERS ARE SCARCE IN BRASILIA AND WOULD COST CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN UNFURNISHED. THUS THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SHOULD DECIDE IF IT WOULD AUTHORIZE FUNDS FOR A LEASE IN LIEU OF QUARTERS ALLOWANCE AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF ONE YEAR OF APPROXIMATELY \$15,000 (RENT, UTILITIES, CONDOMINIUM, ETC).

7. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS IT BE INFORMED OF THE LEGAL BASIS OF THIS PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT AND WHETHER COMMERCE

WILL AUTHORIZE LEASING AN APARTMENT. WHEN THIS
INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THE EMBASSY WILL ADVISE THE
DEPARTMENT FURTHER OF THE DETAILS OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT WHICH CAN BE PROVIDED.
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